

**HOSIERY SYSTEM AND
METHOD THEREFOR**

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application is claiming the benefit of the
10 U.S. Provisional Application having an application number of
60/466,453, filed April 28, 2003, in the name of Marilyn Tams and
entitled "HOSIERY SYSTEM".

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 1. Field of the Invention:

This invention relates to a hosiery system and, more
specifically, to a hosiery system wherein a sock is integrated with
the pantyhose for the combined comfort, fit, ease of use, and
selection that has the advantages that both pantyhose and socks
20 provide.

2. Description of the Prior Art:

Pantyhose serve a wide variety of medical, athletic, and
aesthetic functions. Pantyhose are generally made of a sheer,
25 pigmented, usually knit or woven, material that serves an aesthetic
function to hide blemishes and other imperfections found on the
wearer's legs and lower torso. These types of pantyhose, commonly

worn by women, can also include elastic material in their leg and torso portions to allow the pantyhose to simultaneously function as a girdle and support hose.

Typically, the hosiery industry dictates what is
5 available for purchase, and in turn, what is ultimately worn by the consumer. Unfortunately, many women have problems with current pantyhose designs. Present pantyhose designs are extremely uncomfortable to wear. Because of the material used and the snug fit, most women find pantyhose very uncomfortable. This is
10 especially true in warmer weather. Furthermore, pantyhose provide very little protection or comfort to the feet area of the wearer.

Many women prefer the comfort and fashion of socks in footwear, especially when wearing pants or slacks. Socks provide more protection/cushion in the foot region. However, these same
15 women may also prefer the sleek look and convenience of pantyhose underneath the pants or slacks. In order to accomplish this combination, it has been necessary for the consumer to purchase and wear both the pantyhose and the socks. This combination of hosiery is not always the most comfortable or convenient to wear.

20 Therefore, there is a need for an improved hosiery system that overcomes the above problems. The improved hosiery system will integrate the pantyhose with a pair of socks. Currently, the hosiery industry has not made available to consumers, an integrated unit that has the benefits that both pantyhose and socks offer the
25 wearer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved hosiery system.

5 It is another object of the present invention to provide an improved hosiery system that will integrate a pair of pantyhose with a pair of socks.

10 It is still another object of the present invention to provide an improved hosiery system that will integrate a pair of pantyhose with a pair of socks that has the benefits that both pantyhose and socks offer the wearer.

 It is still another object of the present invention to provide an improved hosiery system that also provides thigh-high stockings and socks in an integrated unit.

15 It is still another object of the present invention to provide the consumer of such improved hosiery the ability to select preferred pantyhose-like hosiery or thigh-high stockings and preferred socks for integration.

20 It is still a further object of the present invention to provide such a system that is efficient, inexpensive, and handy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

25 In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention a hosiery system is disclosed. The hosiery system has a foot covering for covering at least one foot wherein the foot

covering has an upper edge portion. A leg covering is provided for providing thigh support. The leg cover has a lower edge portion, wherein the lower edge portion of the leg covering is coupled to the upper edge portion of the foot covering.

5 In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a method for providing a fashion choice of differing foot cover and thigh support is disclosed. The method comprising: selecting at least one user-selected foot cover having an upper edge portion; selecting at least one user-selected thigh support
10 having a lower edge portion; and coupling the upper edge portion of the user-selected foot cover to the lower edge portion of the user-selected thigh support.

 The foregoing and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following, more
15 particular, description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, as well as a preferred mode of use, and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of illustrated embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a perspective view in partial section of the hosiery system according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the hosiery system of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view through the section 3-3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of an alternate preferred embodiment of the hosiery system of Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figures 1-3 wherein like numerals and symbols represent like elements, a hosiery system **100** according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown. The hosiery system **100** is comprised of two main sections: a sock portion **104** and a thigh-support portion **106**. As shown, the sock portion **104** of the hosiery system **100** is preferably attached directly to the thigh-support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** by seam **108**. Additionally, as shown, preferably the sock portion **104** of the hosiery system **100** extends up the leg of the wearer high enough such that when the slacks **102** are raised, such as when the wearer crosses her leg, that only the sock portion of the hosiery system **104** is visible. Therefore, the continuous fashion of the sock portion of the hosiery system **104** is preferably always seen by

anyone other than the wearer.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the hosiery system of Figure 1. As shown, preferably the sock portion **104** of the hosiery system **100** extends between the ankle and the knee of the wearer.

5 The sock portion **104** of the hosiery system **100** preferably consists of a standard type sock that is available in different materials, as well as sizes and fashions.

10 Additionally, as shown, the thigh-support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** is preferably pantyhose-like, one-piece undergarment that consists of hosiery made with a panty-style top, extending to the wearer's waist. The thigh-support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** preferably consists of standard pantyhose-like hosiery, including tights, that is available in different materials, as well as sizes, colors, and fashions.

15 With both the sock portion **104** and the thigh-support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** being available in different materials, as well as sizes and fashions the present invention offers the wearer a multitude of selections. For example, the wearer or consumer could choose to integrate the hosiery system **100**
20 as follows: have the sock portion **104** of the hosiery system to be red, heavy cotton, toe socks, and the thigh-support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** to be black, opaque tights.

A wearer or consumer may make these different possible selections through an internet website or through a paper brochure

showing the different selections for both the sock portion **104** and the thigh support portion **106** of the hosiery system. Upon reading this specification, those skilled in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as available selections, current fashion, etc., other methods of making selections, for example, mail-order, phone-order, etc., may suffice.

Thus, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for providing the fashion choice of differing foot cover and thigh support. The method has a buyer selecting at least one user-selected foot cover comprising at least one upper edge portion. The user then selects at least one user-selected thigh support comprising at least one lower edge portion. The hosiery system is then attached such that the at least one upper edge portion of the at least one user-selected foot cover is coupled to the at least one lower edge portion of the at least one user-selected thigh support. Such method preferably includes the user selecting at least one sock of a given size and fashion and the user selecting pantyhose of a given size and fashion. Alternately, such method preferably includes the user selecting at least one sock of a given size and fashion and the user selecting at least one thigh-high stocking of a given size and fashion. Such selecting may preferably occur on a user interface of at least one Internet website. Alternatively,

as stated above, one may make the selection via a catalog or the like.

Figure 3 is a sectional view through the section 3-3 of Figure 2. As shown, preferably the upper edge **110** of sock portion **104** of the hosiery system **100** and the lower edge **112** of thigh support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** are joined or attached at seam **108**. Both the sock portion **104** and the thigh support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** are preferably single layers, where the sock portion **104** is preferably not interwoven within the sock area of the thigh support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100**. Thus, minimizing unwanted bunching or layering of either the sock portion **104** or the thigh support portion **106**.

Preferably, seam **108** is formed by sewing the upper edge **110** of the sock portion **104** to the lower edge **112** of the thigh support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100**. The upper edge **110** of the sock portion **104** is preferably a minimal area of the entire sock portion **104**. Additionally, the lower edge **112** of the thigh support portion **106** is preferably a minimal area of the entire thigh support portion. Upon reading this specification, those skilled in the art will now understand that, under appropriate circumstances, considering issues such as strength, cost of production, durability, etc., other seam arrangements, such as, for example, weaving, bonding, etc., may suffice.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of an alternate preferred embodiment of the hosiery system **100** of Figure 1. As shown, preferably the sock portion **104** of the hosiery system **100** extends between the ankle and the knee of the wearer. Additionally, as
5 shown, the thigh-support portion **106** of the hosiery system **100** is preferably thigh-high stocking like, extending to the wearer's upper thigh area.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will
10 be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.